Dear Families,

“Green Bags” are an important part of our reading program. Each day, the children will bring a book home to practice. These books may be from our classroom collection, or a book that he/she has practiced with me in our small group lesson. Please have your child read the books each night. I may also include extra practice sheets for sight words or word families. These are for you to do with your child and do not need to come back to school.

At this stage of reading the story has a very predictable text (I like red, I like blue) and the pictures are very important as they support the child’s “reading” of words. At times your child may forget the predictable part of the text (I like). If that happens, you can help them by reading the first few pages together. When working with your child, please encourage him/her to

* Point to each word as they say it( this helps develop their one-to-one correspondence).
* Look at the pictures if they get stuck.
* Go back and re-read if they get confused (you may help them by saying “I like…) Then have them read the sentence again on their own.
* Have them read the first sound in the word and use the picture if they get stuck.

Learning to read is a lot like learning to speak! You must

* Believe your child will learn to read.
* Praise and encourage your child’s every attempt.
* Reread books over and over and over.
* Make reading a relaxed and enjoyable experience.

Please be careful not to

* Get impatient or upset with your child. If you or your child is frustrated put it away for another time.
* Expect your child to sound out each letter.
* Cover the pictures- they are important to help them!!

Don’t worry if it appears your child has memorized the text…that is a GOOD thing! Just be sure they are pointing to each word as they say it.

Each day spend 10-15 minutes reading with your child and fill in the reading sheet in the green bag. Help your child learn responsibility by keeping their books, sheet and bag in good condition as well as by having them put their bag in their backpack each night after you read together. The book bag should come to school every day, however the books may not be changed every day as we want your child to be able to read every book fluently (read like they speak- no problems!) If you have any questions, please contact me at the school or by email. alysitza@srsd119.ca